CCRB INVESTIGATIVE RECOMMENDATION

Investigator:		Team:	CCRB Case #:	✓ Force	☐ Discourt.	☐ U.S.
Shakina Griffith		Team # 1	201300665	☐ Abuse	O.L.	✓ Injury
Incident Date(s)		Location of Incident:		Precinct:	18 Mo. SOL	EO SOL
Saturday, 01/19/2013 10:00 AM		inside the 115th Precind	ct stationhouse	115	7/19/2014	7/19/2014
Date/Time CV Reported		CV Reported At:	How CV Reported:	Date/Time	Received at CCI	RB
Tue, 01/29/2013 6:28 PM		CCRB	Call Processing System	Tue, 01/29	0/2013 6:28 PM	
Complainant/Victim	Type	Home Address				
Subject Officer(s)	Shield	TaxID	Command			
1. SGT James Lee	03259	930421	115 PCT			
Witness Officer(s)	Shield N	o Tax No	Cmd Name			
1. POM Joseph Difilippi	14171	945177	115 PCT			
Officer(s)	Allegatio	on		Inve	estigator Recon	nmendation
A.SGT James Lee	Force: SO	GT James Lee used phys	cical force against §8	7(2)(b)		
B.SGT James Lee	Force: SO	GT James Lee used pepp	oer spray against § 870	2)(b)		

Case Summary

On January 29, 2013, [87(2)(b)] filed this complaint via the call processing system with the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) (encl.4a-b).

On January 19, 2013, at approximately 10:00 a.m., was brought into the 115th Precinct stationhouse, located at 92-15 Northern Boulevard in Queens, following a Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) arrest. The following allegations resulted.

Allegation A- Force: SGT James Lee used physical force against \$87(2)(b)

Allegation B- Force: SGT James Lee used pepper spray against \$87(2)(b)

\$87(2)(g)

Results of Investigation

Civilian Statement

Complainant/Victim: § 87(2)(b)

- §87(2)(b) is a §87(2)(b) year old Hispanic female who is 5'7", weighs 160 pounds, and has red hair and brown eyes.
- At the time of the interview, § 87(2)(b)

Arrest Photograph

s arrest photograph showed a bruise on the right cheekbone (encl. 5a).

Statements to Medical Providers

On January 19, 2013, at \$87(2)(6) Hospital, \$87(2)(6) complained of pain to the right side of her face and to the right forearm due to a physical altercation with officers. \$87(2)(6) stated that an officer hit her in the face and threw her against a cell. \$87(2)(6) also stated that she was pepper-sprayed. \$87(2)(6) complained of eye pain as a result of the pepper-spray. On January 20, 2013, at \$87(2)(6) Hospital in Forest Hills, Queens, \$87(2)(6) stated that she was assaulted on January 19, 2013 and complained of pain to her right cheek and complained of a headache. (encl. 17a-s).

CCRB Statement

On February 5, 2013, solution provided a phone statement (encl. 6a). On February 21, 2013, was interviewed at the CCRB (encl. 7a-n). On March 1, 2013 and June 13, 2012, answered follow-up questions (encl. 8a; 9a). Her statements are summarized below.

On January 19, 2013, at approximately 6:14 a.m., \$87(2)(b) was arrested at Northern Boulevard and Junction Boulevard for driving while intoxicated by PO Joseph Difilippi, who worked with PO Cesar Arceo, both of the 115th Precinct. \$87(2)(b) drank one five ounce cup of Red Bull and Hennessy and did not drink any other alcoholic beverages. She was taken to the Highway District 3 stationhouse, where she was given sobriety tests. After the tests were completed, \$87(2)(b) was transported to the 115th Precinct stationhouse.

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At the stationhouse, PO Difilippi walked (\$37(2)(b) to a holding cell and removed her handcuffs. §87(2)(b) remained in the cell alone for approximately two hours. Then PO Difflippi took \$87(2)(b) out of the holding cell and walked her to the front desk so she could be frisked. An officer, who was described as a white female in her mid-30s, with blonde hair and brown eyes, 5'6", 150, and in uniform, was instructed to frisk \$87(2)(b) officer stood behind \$87(2)(b) and patted down \$87(2)(b) from her ankles to her bra straps. In her original complaint, § \$7(2)(5) stated that a sergeant, who was identified via investigation as SGT James Lee of the 115th Precinct, and who was described as a slim Asian male with black hair and black eyes, 5'7" to 5'8", 41 years old, and in uniform, patted her down. SGT Lee sat behind the desk and gave \$87(2)(b) a dirty look. \$87(2)(b) said to SGT Lee. "Why are you looking at me like that? It happens to everybody. Everybody has a bad day." SGT Lee said, "Shut up. Just shut up." § 87(2)(b) said, "Don't speak to me like that because I'm not an animal. I didn't harm anybody, so don't speak to me like that." SGT Lee walked around the desk, grabbed § 87(2)(b) s right bicep with both hands, put pressure around her bicep, and said, "Didn't I tell you to shut up?" \$87(2)(b) told SGT Lee that he was hurting her. SGT Lee continued to tell § 87(2)(b) to shut up. SGT Lee pulled § 87(2)(b) toward him and pulled her to the holding cell. § 87(2)(b) did not resist. While still holding her bicep, pushed against the cell. The right side of \$87(2)(5) s face made contact with the cell. At this time, SGT Lee still held \$87(2)(b) s bicep. \$87(2)(b) stepped back approximately two inches from the cell and told SGT Lee that her face hit the cell. SGT Lee said, "Just shut up." Still s right arm, SGT Lee pushed \$87(2)(b) onto the cell, causing the left side of her face to make contact with the cell. \$87(2)(6) pulled away from SGT Lee. again said that her face made contact with the cell. SGT Lee faced \$87(2)(b) stood approximately one inch away from her body. SGT Lee told §37(2)(b) to shut up and asked officers, § 97(2)(b) did not know who, to retrieve the pepper spray. SGT Lee pushed § away from him and into the holding cell. There were no other individuals in that holding shielded her eyes with her right arm. § 37(2)(b) did not see which officer gave the pepper spray to SGT Lee. SGT Lee held 387(2)(5) s arm down, and with his index finger on top of the container and the rest of his fingers around the container, pepper sprayed in the face. § 37(2)(b) did nothing with her body right before she was pepper-sprayed and did not have physical contact with SGT Lee. As he pepper sprayed \$87(2)(6) SGT Lee moved his hand left and right. The stream of pepper spray that came out of the container was constant. The pepper spray made contact with § 87(2)(b) s face and chest area of her jacket. felt a burning sensation on her eyes and face. \$37(2)(b) thought the pepper spray container was blue with white letters, but could not further describe the size or shape of the container. Approximately one minute later, SGT Lee pepper sprayed § 87(2)(b) again. As § 87(2)(b) was being pepper sprayed the second time, she covered her face. Then SGT Lee exited the cell. An unknown amount of officers, who \$87(2)(b) was unable to identify, stood outside the cell and watched SGT Lee, but did not interact with § 87(2)(b) yelled that she needed to be taken to the hospital. Approximately thirty minutes to one hour later, four white males, who wore dark blue long-sleeved shirts with pockets on the chest, black carpenter pants with pockets on the side, black army boots, and black baseball caps, and who §87(2)(b) described as the "Ninja Turtles", approached § 87(2)(b) in the cell. § 87(2)(b) "NYPD" written on any of the males' clothing. §87(2)(b) was asked if she wanted to be a "tough girl" and \$87(2)(b) said she was not trying to cause trouble. \$87(2)(b) was told that she would get into trouble if she played "tough girl." At approximately 9:00 a.m., the four males

NYPD Statements:

Witness Officer: PO JOSEPH DIFILIPPI

§ 87(2)(b)

• On January 18, 2013, PO Difilippi worked from 11:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. the following day and was assigned to Sectors C, D, and E. PO Difilippi worked with PO Arceo. The officers were in uniform and were assigned to a marked vehicle, vehicle number 3414.

Memo Book

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PO Difilippi wrote that he conducted a car stop on Junction Boulevard and Northern Boulevard and \$\text{\$\frac{\text{\$\tex
SGT Lee, as per SGT Lee. On the flysheet, PO Difilippi noted \$87(2)(b) s name, address, date of birth, and contact numbers (encl. 10a-e).
Computerized Arrest Reports On January 19, 2013, at approximately 6:14 a.m., \$87(2)(b) was arrested at Northern Boulevard and Junction Boulevard in Queens for DWI. The narrative stated that \$87(2)(b) was observed swerving in and out of lanes and not using signals. When PO Difilippi attempted to pull \$87(2)(b) over by activating the lights and sirens on his marked vehicle, \$87(2)(b) continued to drive approximately twelve city blocks. When \$97(2)(b) was stopped at a red light, PO Difilippi approached \$87(2)(b) s vehicle and observed \$97(2)(b) s bloodshot and watery eyes, heard her slurred speech, and smelled odor coming from \$87(2)(b) s breath and body. PO Difilippi also observed an open container of alcohol inside \$87(2)(b) s vehicle. On January 19, 2013, at approximately 10:00 a.m., \$87(2)(b) was arrested inside the 115th Precinct stationhouse, located at 92-15 Northern Boulevard in Queens, for assault of an officer. The narrative stated that while the officer attempted to lodge \$97(2)(b) she kicked, head butted, and spat in the officer's eyes, causing the officer pain and his eyes to burn (encl. 11a-1).
Criminal Court Complaint Report According to the Criminal Court Complaint Report, S87(2)(b) was charged with assault in the second degree, operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, aggravated unlicensed operator of a motor vehicle, consumption of alcoholic beverages in a motor vehicle, driving by an unlicensed operator (encl. 12a-c).

AIDED

According to the AIDED report, while at the 115th Precinct stationhouse, \$87(2)(6) kicked, head butted, and spat at SGT Lee. ESU was not notified. (encl. 13a-b).

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<u>CCRB Statement</u> PO Difilippi was interviewed at the CCRB on March 26, 2012 (encl. 14a-d).

On January 19, 2013, PO Difilippi observed speeding, driving through a red traffic
light, and swerving between the lanes on Northern Boulevard. The turret lights and sirens were
activated to indicate to \$87(2)(b) that she needed to pull over. \$87(2)(b) stopped at a red
light, approximately twenty blocks away, at Junction Boulevard and Northern Boulevard. PO
Difilippi and PO Arceo exited their vehicle and walked to \$87(2)(b) s car, which was in the
right lane. PO Difilippi and PO Arceo approached the driver's side of \$87(2)(b) s car. PO
Difilippi smelled alcohol, which smelled like vodka, and observed a cup without the lid, which
was approximately twenty-four ounces, from a fast food restaurant in the center console. PO
Difilippi did not know what kind of alcohol was in the cup. §87(2)(b) see eyes were bloodshot
and watery, and she slurred her words. An officer, PO Difilippi did not remember who, instructed
to exit her car. PO Difilippi did not remember if §87(2)(b) complied with that
instruction. PO Difilippi and PO Arceo assisted in bringing \$87(2)(b) out of her car.
was brought to the rear of her car. An officer, PO Difilippi did not remember who, went
over the radio to call for assistance in order for officers to bring the breathalyzer machine to the
location. Once the machine was given to PO Difilippi and PO Arceo, those assisting officers
remained at the scene throughout the entire incident. § 87(2)(b) refused to take the
breathalyzer test. PO Difilippi did not remember how many times he instructed \$87(2)(b) to
take the breathalyzer test before she eventually took the test. PO Difilippi could not recall
s alcohol limit, but stated she was above the legal limit. PO Diffilippi and PO Arceo
brought \$87(2)(0) to the Intoxicated Driver Testing Unit (IDTU) at the 112 th Precinct
stationhouse to take a sobriety test. PO Difilippi and \$87(2)(b) remained at the IDTU for
approximately three-and-one-half hours before going to the 115 th Precinct stationhouse.
was transported to the 115 th Precinct stationhouse; however, PO Difilippi did know in
which vehicle \$87(2)(b) was placed in order to be transported.
was placed in order to be transported.
While in front of the desk at the stationhouse, §87(2)(b) who was handcuffed, acted
disorderly, yelled, used profanity, and did not answer questions. PO Difilippi did not remember
what questions were asked of \$87(2)(b) An unidentified female officer went to search \$27(3)
who continued to yell and moved her body back and forth to prevent the search from
occurring. Ser(2)(b) said, "Why do you have to keep searching me?" PO Difilippi did not
remember if SGT Lee told \$87(2)(6) to "shut up." SGT Lee, who was behind the desk, told
to let the officer do her job. Then \$87(2)(b) yelled at SGT Lee and used
profanity toward him; however, PO Difilippi did not know the words used by \$87(2)(b) SGT
Lee ordered an officer to place \$87(2)(b) in the holding cell, which was approximately twenty
to twenty-five feet from where \$87(2)(b) stood. \$87(2)(c) would not move. SGT Lee
walked around the desk and grabbed \$87(2)(b) s bicep to escort her into the holding cell. PO
Difilippi did not remember which arm SGT Lee grabbed. §87(2)(b) may have complained
about the tight grip around her arm. SGT Lee pulled \$87(2)(0) s arm so she would walk to the
cell. PO Difilippi did not see SGT Lee push her against the cell. PO Difilippi did not remember if
made contact with the cell door. PO Difilippi was not made aware of any injuries
that \$87(2)(b) sustained. PO Difilippi did not remember if \$87(2)(b) complained of any
injuries. PO Difilippi was presented with seven photographs of \$87(2)(6) s injuries, sent by
(encl. 7g-n). PO Difilippi did not remember seeing those injuries.
(chel. /g-n). I o Dimppi did not remember seeing diose injuries.
SGT Lee instructed §87(2)(b) to walk to the cell. §87(2)(b) tried to stand still to prevent
herself from walking to the cell. As SGT Lee pulled \$87(2)(b) to the holding cell, she

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continued to yell and spat several times at SGT Lee. While in the holding cell area, \$87(2)(0) kicked SGT Lee in the legs, head butted SGT Lee in his face twice, and continued to spit. PO Difilippi did not know how many times \$87(2)(0) kicked SGT Lee. SGT Lee held against the cell to prevent her from kicking and head butting him. \$87(2)(0) s chest made contact with the cell. PO Difilippi did not know which side of \$87(2)(0) s face made contact with the bars of the cell. \$87(2)(0) did not complain about being held against the cell. PO Difilippi did not remember at which point SGT Lee released his hold of \$87(2)(0)
The handcuffs could not be removed from \$87(2)(b) at this time because she continued to kick and spit. As SGT Lee attempted to open the door to the holding cell, \$87(2)(b) spat at SGT Lee several times and the saliva made contact with SGT Lee's eyes and mouth. While PO Difilippi was in a cell room, approximately twenty feet away from the holding cell, PO Difilippi saw SGT Lee pepper-spray \$87(2)(b) twice to prevent her from spitting. The pepper spray made contact with \$87(2)(b) s face. \$87(2)(b) said the pepper-spray burned and she may have yelled.
was placed in the holding cell and SGT Lee called an ambulance for SGT Lee's eyes were red, but he did not go to the hospital. PO Difilippi did not remember any more of SGT Lee's injuries. SGT Lee continued to yell. SGT Lee instructed PO Difilippi to process an arrest for SGT Lee for assault. SGT Lee called for the Emergency Service Unit (ESU) because the officers did not know how SGT(2)(6) would react after the ambulance arrived. Three officers from ESU, one of whom was female, arrived at the stationhouse. PO Difilippi did not see the interaction between the ESU officers and SGT(2)(6) was brought to Hospital by the ambulance. PO Difilippi did not know which officer accompanied SGT(2)(6) to the hospital.
Subject Officer: SGT JAMES LEE
§ 87(2)(b)
• On January 19, 2013, SGT Lee worked from 6:55 a.m. to 3:52 p.m. and was assigned as the

Memo Book

SGT Lee had no memo book entries regarding this incident. SGT Lee was assigned as the desk officer at the time of the incident (encl. 15a-b).

desk sergeant. SGT Lee worked alone and in uniform.

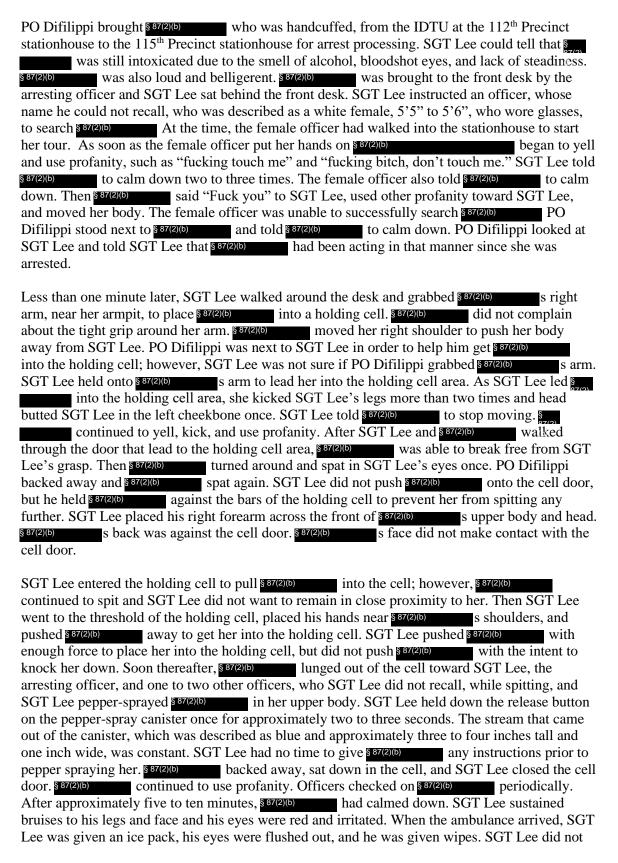
Line of Duty Report

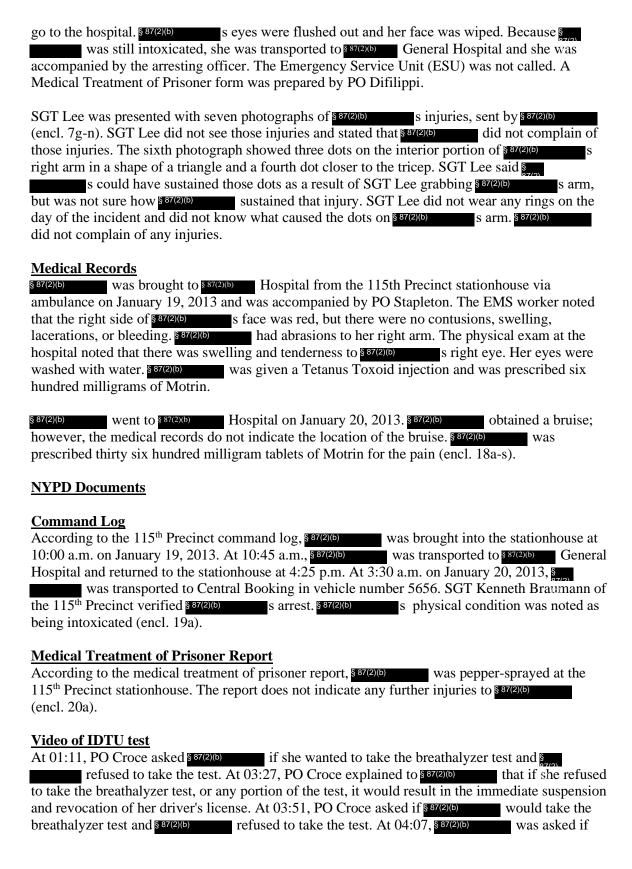
According to the Line of Duty Report, when SGT Lee escorted to the holding cell, she kicked his left leg, head butted him in the face, and spit in his face, causing pain and irritation. SGT Lee was diagnosed with a contusion to the left leg and a scratch to the face. He refused medical attention (encl. 16a-b).

CCRB Statement

SGT Lee was interviewed at the CCRB on April 4, 2013 (encl. 17a-c). SGT Lee's statement was generally consistent with PO Difilippi's statement, with the following exceptions and general information.

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she would take the physical test and she agreed to do so. At 09:43, \$87(2)(5) completed the tests (encl. 21a). **Prisoner Holding Pen Roster** According to the prisoner holding pen roster, Juan Gonzalez entered the holding cell at 3:16 a.m. and went to Queens Central Booking at 9:15 a.m. § 87(2)(b) entered the holding cell at 10:00 a.m. and was taken to 887(2)(b) Hospital at 10:45 a.m. (encl. 22a-b). **Arrest for Incident and Disposition** For case number § 87(2)(b) pled guilty to second degree assault and driving while intoxicated on April 11, 2013 87(2)(b) 24a-d). s assault arrest has been sealed (encl. 24e). **Status of Civil Proceedings** has not filed a Notice of Claim with the City of New York as of February 22, 2013 with regard to the incident (encl. 23a). Civilian CCRB History This is the first CCRB complaint filed by \$87(2)(b) (encl. 3a). **Subject Officer CCRB History** • SGT Lee has been a member of the service for ten years and there is one substantiated CCRB allegation against him (encl. 2a). o SGT Lee received no disciplinary action for the substantiation of a property damage allegation for case 200702497. Conclusion **Identification of Subject Officer** SGT Lee acknowledged physically interacting with § 87(2)(b) **Investigative Findings and Recommendations** Allegation A- Force: SGT James Lee used physical force against §87(2)(6) Allegation B- Force: SGT James Lee used pepper spray against §87(2)(b) stated that SGT Lee pushed her twice against a holding cell and pepper sprayed her twice without provocation. § 87(2)(b) s medical records showed abrasions to her right arm,

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which are consistent with SGT Lee grabbing that arm. Photographs provided by \$87(2)(b) also showed a bruise to the right side of her face. PO Difilippi stated that when \$87(2)(b) spat head butted, and kicked SGT Lee, she was held face first against the cell by SGT Lee, who pepper sprayed her to cease the spitting. SGT Lee stated that he held \$87(2)(b) against the holding cell, with her back to the holding cell, and pepper sprayed her after she lunged out of the holding cell. The Line of Duty Report and the AIDED documented that \$87(2)(b) spat, head

another from unlawful use of force (encl. 1a-c). A photograph of the right side of \$87(2)(b) s face shows an injury; however, both officers denied seeing any injures and denied that \$87(2)(5) complained of any injuries. The role that SGT Lee had in \$87(2)(b) obtaining that injury to her face is unknown. Team: One Investigator: _ Signature Print Date Supervisor: _ Title/Signature Print Date Reviewer: Title/Signature Print Date Reviewer:

Print

Date

butted, and kicked SGT Lee. Those reports also documented that SGT Lee refused medical

According to Patrol Guide Procedure 212-95, pepper spray is used in situations when the uniformed member of the service reasonably believes that it is necessary to protect one-self, or

attention. § 87(2)(b) was ultimately charged with assaulting SGT Lee.

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Title/Signature